

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 AF-10 EUR-25 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 /205 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: INDIAN AMBASSADOR CALL ON SISCO

USUN PLEASE PASS MOYNIHAN

SUMMARY: IN DECEMBER 5 SESSION, ASST SECY SISCO REVIEWED
MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA DEVELOPMENTS WITH AMB. KAUL.
ON MIDDLE EAST, SISCO EMPHASIZED US HOPE FOR PROGRESS
TOWARD PEACE, NOTING THAT CONTINUED ARAB OIL EMBARGO
WOULD MAKE IT HARDER FOR US TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE.
ON SOUTH ASIA, BOTH KAUL AND SISCO AGREED THAT INDO-US
RELATIONS MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION WITH RUPEE SETTLEMENT
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PROVIDING FURTHER BOOST. ON PAK-AFGHAN TENSIONS, SISCO

SAID WE URGING MODERATION ON BOTH PARTIES. KAUL EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT RECENT BHUTTO STATEMENTS ON KASHMIR. END SUMMARY.

1. MIDDLE EAST: SISCO REVIEWED MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR EASING OF OIL EMBARGO. SISCO COMMENTED THAT ARABS HAVE MADE THEIR POINT. PURSUED MUCH FURTHER, EMBARGO WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE WITH US PUBLIC OPINION. NOW WAS TIME FOR ARABS TO STRENGTHEN HAND OF US ADMINISTRATION, NOT TO WEAKEN IT. UNLIKE EUROPE AND JAPAN, US COULD MANAGE; EMBARGO WAS NOT GOING TO ALTER US POLICY. IT WAS IN US INTEREST TO WORK TOWARD PEACE SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE HARDER TO PLAY

CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IF ADMINISTRATION APPEARED TO BE ACTING UNDER DURESS. OUR PART IN ACHIEVING CEASE FIRE, SIX POINT AGREEMENT AND ONGOING EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON MODALITIES FOR PEACE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ARABS OF US BONA FIDES.

2. KAUL ASKED ABOUT ARAB INSISTENCE THAT ISRAELIS MOVE BACK TO OCTOBER 22 LINE. SISCO RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS PUBLIC EGYPTIAN PRESS LINE BUT NOT PRIVATE POSITION WHICH VIEWED RETURN TO OCTOBER 22 LINE IN CONTEXT OF BROADER DISENGAGEMENT. EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED FAR-REACHING PROPOSALS ON DISENGAGEMENT, WELL BEYOND QUESTION OF BULWARKING CEASE FIRE. US JUDGMENT WAS THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BE RESOLVED IN EARLY PHASE OF PEACE CONFERENCE, RATHER THAN IN ANY RESUMPTION OF KILOMETER 101 TALKS.

3. TO SUM UP SITUATION, SISCO EMPHASIZED THAT DRAMATIC CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED. EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS NOW TALKING WITH EACH OTHER AND WOULD SOON BE NEGOTIATING IN PEACE CONFERENCE. CEASE FIRE REMAINED DELICATE; BOTH SIDES WERE STRONG BUT NERVOUS. WE THOUGHT CEASEFIRE WOULD HOLD; ONE REASON WAS THAT NEITHER SIDE SAW THEIR INTEREST SERVED BY BREAKING IT.

4. SOUTH ASIA: KAUL ASKED ABOUT RECENT BHUTTO STATE-
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MENTS IN "PAK OCCUPIED" KASHMIR, SAYING INDIANS CONSIDERED THESE VIOLATION OF SIMLA SPIRIT. KAUL ADDED THAT INDIANS HAD SENT PAKS AIDEMEMOIRE AND RECEIVED RATHER UNSATISFACTORY RESPONSE. SISCO COMMENTED THAT IN OUR VIEW BHUTTO REMARKS APPEARED NOT BASICALLY DIRECTED AT INDIA BUT RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL COMPULSIONS. KAUL HOPED WE WOULD USE OUR INFLUENCE WITH PAKS TO AVOID USING INDIA SCAPEGOAT. "SABRE RATTLING" SPEECHES WOULD SET

BACK PROSPECTS FOR GENUINE STABILITY IN AREA.

5. SISCO ASKED FOR INDIAN VIEW OF RECENT BANGLADESH AMNESTY. KAUL SAID THIS WAS WELCOME MOVE AND SHOULD EASE PATH TO NORMALIZATION. HOWEVER, HE SORRY PAKS SEEMED TO BE FOOTDRAGGING ON ACCEPTING BIHARIS BACK FROM BANGLADESH.

6. KAUL ASKED ABOUT PAK-AFGHAN SITUATION. SISCO SAID THAT WE HAVE TOLD ALL PARTIES THAT NO ONE'S INTEREST SERVED BY RETURN OF TENSION. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT INFLAMMATORY PUBLIC STATEMENTS MIGHT EXACERBATE MATTERS. KAUL SAID THAT SWARAN SINGH GAINED IMPRESSION FROM KABUL THAT NEW GOVERNMENT ONLY REITERATING STANDARD

AFGHAN POSITION ON PUSHTUNISTAN. SISCO RESPONDED THAT IN ATMOSPHERE OF PAK-AFGHAN DISTRUST, STATEMENTS CONSIDERED ROUTINE AND AIMED AT DOMESTIC AUDIENCES TOOK ON BROADER SIGNIFICANCE WITH IMPACT BEYOND BORDER, EVEN IF NOT SO INTENDED. KAUL SAID INDIANS HAD NO INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING PAK-AFGHAN TROUBLES AND HAD IMPRESSION THIS WAS ALSO SOVIET VIEWPOINT.

7. INDO-US RELATIONS: SISCO SAID THAT THESE WERE MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION. THERE WAS GREATER MUTUALITY AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S POLICIES. US AND INDIA WERE RESISTING TEMPTATION OF BEING UNDULY SENSITIVE ABOUT 3RD COUNTRY ISSUES. WE WERE MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD DEVELOPING A NEW RELATIONSHIP. WE WERE OPTIMISTIC THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SOLVE RUPEE PROBLEM AND THEN MOVE ON TO OTHER ISSUES. KAUL AGREED THAT WE WERE MAKING PROGRESS ON BILATERAL FRONT AND THOUGHT RELATIONS WOULD RECEIVE FURTHER BOOST FROM CONCLUSION OF RUPEE AGREEMENT. AFTER
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THIS, HE HOPED US AND INDIA COULD DEVELOP RELATIONS ON COOPERATIVE, LONG TERM BASIS IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AREAS.

8. AT PRESENT, KAUL SAID ONLY US POLICY, DEPLOYMENT OF INDIAN OCEAN TASK FORCE, WAS CAUSING SOME CONCERN IN DELHI. KAUL SAID INDIANS WANTED AREA TO BE FREE OF MAJOR POWER INVOLVEMENT, WHETHER US OR SOVIETS. ENLARGEMENT US NAVAL PRESENCE COULD ATTRACT OTHERS AND LEAD TO NEW TENSIONS. SISCO SAID THAT US PRESENCE WAS SMALL, PERIODIC, AND NOT DIRECTED AT INDIA. WE DID NOT SEE WHY IT SHOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR ANY COUNTRIES OF REGION, INCLUDING INDIA. KISSINGER

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